

(b) *Exceptional case.* Where after all sources of information have been exhausted and all variations in the records reconciled, there remains notation of filled teeth at time of release from active service and there was no notation of these teeth as defective or filled at entrance into service, service connection may be granted in exceptional cases for such teeth, notwithstanding there is no record of treatment during service, if the veteran alleges treatment in service, giving the time and place of treatment, and the conditions and circumstances of his or her service support his or her allegation, and inception in service is consistent with sound dental judgment. Exceptional cases contemplated in this category are where the veteran had a considerable period of service, particularly in a combat area where records of treatment may not always have been recorded due to the stress and strain encountered under battle conditions or where extenuating circumstances are shown in those instances where the veteran served in this country or in other than combat.

(c) *Limitations.* Salivary deposits is a type of routine dental condition which has no relation to service. Malposed teeth with no pathology shown will not be service connected. Service connection should not be granted for the 3d molars at any time unless there is a definite record showing such teeth to have been diseased after a reasonable period of service. The 3d molars shown as present at induction and missing at discharge will not be granted service connection unless there is an actual record of extraction for reasons other than malposition or impaction. Vincent's disease should not be granted service connection if the service records are entirely negative. To warrant favorable action on Vincent's disease, chronicity, continuity of treatment, or the residual thereof, that is, periodontoclasia or pyorrhea, should be shown by the service records as chronic. Vincent's disease with infrequent episodes of short duration in the active service should be considered as an acute condition and may not be service connected. Gingivitis is not considered a disease entity and is not ratable. Diagnosis of pyorrhea in service after a

reasonable period of service will require confirmation by a Department of Veterans Affairs examination, including X-ray, before grant of service connection, unless examination is contraindicated by factors such as extraction of all pyorrhoeic teeth. Pyorrhea shown during service after a reasonable period of service, involving one or more teeth necessitating extraction, is a sufficient basis for grant of service connection for the tooth or teeth involved.

[26 FR 1592, Feb. 24, 1961, as amended at 44 FR 22720, Apr. 17, 1979]

§3.383 Special consideration for paired organs and extremities.

(a) *Entitlement criteria.* Compensation is payable for the combinations of service-connected and nonservice-connected disabilities specified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(5) of this section as if both disabilities were service-connected, provided the nonservice-connected disability is not the result of the veteran's own willful misconduct.

(1) Blindness in one eye as a result of service-connected disability and blindness in the other eye as a result of nonservice-connected disability.

(2) Loss or loss of use of one kidney as a result of service-connected disability and involvement of the other kidney as a result of nonservice-connected disability.

(3) Total deafness in one ear as a result of service-connected disability and total deafness in the other ear as a result of nonservice-connected disability.

(4) Loss or loss of use of one hand or one foot as a result of service-connected disability and loss or loss of use of the other hand or foot as a result of nonservice-connected disability.

(5) Permanent service-connected disability of one lung, rated 50 percent or more disabling, in combination with a nonservice-connected disability of the other lung.

(b) *Effect of judgment or settlement.* (1) If a veteran receives any money or property of value pursuant to an award in a judicial proceeding based upon, or a settlement or compromise of, any cause of action for damages for the nonservice-connected disability which established entitlement under this section, the increased compensation payable by reason of this section shall not

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be paid for any month following the month in which any such money or property is received until such time as the total amount of such increased compensation that would otherwise have been payable equals the total of the amount of any such money received and the fair market value of any such property received. The provisions of this paragraph do not apply, however, to any portion of such increased compensation payable for any period preceding the end of the month in which such money or property of value was received.

(2) With respect to the disability combinations specified in paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3) and (a)(5) of this section, the provisions of this paragraph apply only to awards of increased compensation made on or after October 28, 1986.

(c) *Social security and workers' compensation.* Benefits received under social security or workers' compensation are not subject to recoupment under paragraph (b) of this section even though such benefits may have been awarded pursuant to a judicial proceeding.

(d) *Veteran's duty to report.* Any person entitled to increased compensation under this section shall promptly report to VA the receipt of any money or property received pursuant to a judicial proceeding based upon, or a settlement or compromise of, any cause of action or other right of recovery for damages for the nonservice-connected loss or loss of use of the impaired extremity upon which entitlement under this section is based. The amount to be reported is the total of the amount of money received and the fair market value of property received. Expenses incident to recovery, such as attorneys' fees, may not be deducted from the amount to be reported.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1160)

[53 FR 23236, June 21, 1988]

§ 3.384 [Reserved]

§ 3.385 Disability due to impaired hearing.

For the purposes of applying the laws administered by VA, impaired hearing will be considered to be a disability when the auditory threshold in any of

the frequencies 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 Hertz is 40 decibels or greater; or when the auditory thresholds for at least three of the frequencies 500, 1000, 2000, 3000, or 4000 Hertz are 26 decibels or greater; or when speech recognition scores using the Maryland CNC Test are less than 94 percent.

[59 FR 60560, Nov. 25, 1994]

EFFECTIVE DATES

§ 3.400 General.

Except as otherwise provided, the effective date of an evaluation and award of pension, compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation based on an original claim, a claim reopened after final disallowance, or a claim for increase will be the date of receipt of the claim or the date entitlement arose, whichever is the later.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5110(a))

(a) *Unless specifically provided.* On basis of facts found.

(b) *Disability benefits—(1) Disability pension (§ 3.3(c)).* An award of disability pension may not be effective prior to the date entitlement arose.

(i) *Claims received prior to October 1, 1984.* Date of receipt of claim or date on which the veteran became permanently and totally disabled, if claim is filed within one year from such date, whichever is to the advantage of the veteran.

(ii) *Claims received on or after October 1, 1984.* (A) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(B) of this section, date of receipt of claim.

(B) If, within one year from the date on which the veteran became permanently and totally disabled, the veteran files a claim for a retroactive award and establishes that a physical or mental disability, which was not the result of the veteran's own willful misconduct, was so incapacitating that it prevented him or her from filing a disability pension claim for at least the first 30 days immediately following the date on which the veteran became permanently and totally disabled, the disability pension award may be effective from the date of receipt of claim or the date on which the veteran became permanently and totally disabled, whichever is to the advantage of the veteran. While rating board judgment must be